AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 17 as follows:

The invention according to ~~claim 1~~ embodiment 1 and intended to accomplish the objects relates to an oligonucleotide for detection of Salmonella toxin gene invA mRNA, which oligonucleotide is capable of specifically binding to Salmonella gene invA mRNA, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 12.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 24 as follows:

Moreover, the invention according to ~~claim 2~~ embodiment 2 and intended to accomplish the objects relates to an oligonucleotide for detection of Salmonella toxin gene stn mRNA, which oligonucleotide is capable of specifically binding to Salmonella toxin gene stn mRNA, and comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 13 to 18.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 31 as follows:

Furthermore, the invention according to ~~claim 3~~ embodiment 3 and intended to accomplish the objects relates to a process of amplifying Salmonella gene invA mRNA, wherein a specific sequence of Salmonella gene invA mRNA present in a sample is used as a template for synthesis of a cDNA employing an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the RNA of the formed RNA/DNA hybrid is digested by Ribonuclease H to produce a single-stranded DNA, the single-stranded DNA is then used as a template for production of a double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence capable of transcribing RNA comprising the specific sequence or the sequence complementary to the specific sequence employing a DNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the double-stranded DNA produces an RNA transcription product in the presence of an RNA polymerase, and the RNA transcription product is then

used as a template for cDNA synthesis employing the RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the amplification process being characterized by employing a first oligonucleotide capable of specifically binding to Salmonella gene invA mRNA and comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 1 to 12 and a second oligonucleotide comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 19 to 23 and having a sequence homologous to a portion of the Salmonella gene invA mRNA sequence to be amplified, where either the first or second oligonucleotide includes the RNA polymerase promoter sequence at the 5' end.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21 as follows:

Still furthermore, the invention according to ~~claim 4~~ embodiment 4 and intended to accomplish the objects relates to a process of amplifying Salmonella gene stn mRNA, wherein a specific sequence of Salmonella gene stn mRNA present in a sample is used as a template for synthesis of a cDNA employing an RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the RNA of the formed RNA/DNA hybrid is digested by Ribonuclease H to produce a single-stranded DNA, the single-stranded DNA is then used as a template for production of a double-stranded DNA having a promoter sequence capable of transcribing RNA comprising the specific sequence or the sequence complementary to the specific sequence employing a DNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the double-stranded DNA produces an RNA transcription product in the presence of an RNA polymerase, and the RNA transcription product is then used as a template for cDNA synthesis employing the RNA-dependent DNA polymerase, the amplification process being characterized by employing a first oligonucleotide capable of specifically binding to Salmonella gene stn mRNA, and comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 13 to 18 and a second oligonucleotide comprising at least 10 contiguous bases of any of the sequences listed as SEQ. ID. Nos. 24 to

27 and having a sequence homologous to a portion of the Salmonella gene stn mRNA sequence to be amplified, where either the first or second oligonucleotide includes the RNA polymerase promoter sequence at the 5' end.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 11 as follows:

The invention according to ~~claim 5~~ embodiment 5 relates to a detection method comprising carrying out the amplification process according to ~~claim 3~~ embodiment 3 or 4 in the presence of an oligonucleotide probe capable of specifically binding to the RNA transcription product resulting from the amplification and labeled with an intercalator fluorescent pigment, and measuring changes in the fluorescent properties of the reaction solution, with the proviso that the labeled oligonucleotide has a sequence different from those of the first oligonucleotide and the second oligonucleotide. The invention according to ~~claim 6~~ embodiment 6 relates to the detection method according to ~~claim 5~~ embodiment 5, characterized in that the probe is designed so as to complementarily bind to at least a portion of the sequence of the RNA transcription product, and the fluorescent property changes relative to that of a situation where a complex formation is absent. The invention according to ~~claim 7~~ embodiment 7 relates to the detection method according to ~~claim 6~~ embodiment 6, characterized in that the probe for detecting the invA mRNA comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ. ID. No. 28 or its complementary sequence. The invention according to ~~claim 8~~ embodiment 8 relates to the detection method according to ~~claim 6~~ embodiment 6, characterized in that the probe for detecting the stn MRNA comprises at least 10 contiguous bases of SEQ. ID. No. 29 or its complementary sequence. The present invention will be explained below.